

Eduard Toppenberg

BALIA DI SEHÚ

Let's Dance the Sehú



*arranged by Rufo Odor
for satb chorus*

ARUB

Broch.
Nr.
930

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BALIA DI SEHÚ

Let's Dance the Sehú

Ban balie, ban zoje
foi mainta trempan te seis or di manjan.

Ta seis or di mainta y m'a lanta trempan,
ma prepara mi muchila y m'a faha mi lomba.
Nos t'ei balia sehú, nos t'ei zoja sehú,
mi shon, riba ritm'i tambú.

M'a topa cu Peruchi y m'a topa mi swa,
nan tur cu nan botr'i pin chi nan tambe ta bei sehú.
Hende nan humilde gainan di hopi rasa,
mi shon, nan t'ei zoja sehú.

Let's dance it, let's swing
from early morning until 6 am the next day.

It's six in the morning and I woke up early;
I prepare my pack and bind my bag.
We're going to dance and swing the sehú,
my man, to the rhythm of the tambú.

I met Peruchi and my brother-in-law;
everyone has a small bottle they take with them.
Plain people who fight for their rights,
my man, are going to swing to the sehú.

The language of *Balia di Sehú* is Papiamentu, a mixed language containing elements of African, Portuguese, Spanish, English and Dutch. It is the native tongue of Curacao, Bonaire, and Aruba.

Pronunciation

Vowels

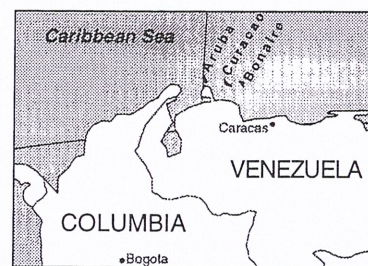
a = a in father
e = a in May
i = ee in see
o = o in go
u = oo in soon

Consonants

c = c in call
ch = ch in chicken
j = y in yawn
s = s in saw
sh = sh in should
y = ee in see
z = z in zoo

The Sehú is a harvest dance which is sung in April or May when it is time to harvest the corn. The dancers, who often decorate themselves with parts of the harvested corn, form two lines facing each other with the corn between them. They stand with their hands on the hips of the people next to them and shuffle toward each other to the rhythm of the music. When they reach the middle, they shuffle back to their original places. This lasts for long periods of time, often all day and all night.

Edouard Toppenberg is a performer and composer living on the Caribbean island of Aruba, one of the Lesser Antilles which lies in the West Indies off the northwest shore of Venezuela. This song was written for Toppenberg's mother who grew up on the island of Bonaire. Various percussion instruments would normally accompany this song, including the tambú (tambor, or low-pitched drum played with two sticks), maracas, claves, triangle (a large one often used to call people to dinner), and the calco (a calaco or conch shell that makes a very hollow sound when blown). It is essential to experiment with various available percussion instruments and movement for the choir, always bearing in mind that this is a celebration.



The cover artist Marcello Mendez (Dominiky) (b. 1962) is from Quito, Ecuador, whose work has been exhibited throughout Ecuador as well as in Miami and New York City. He most often works in pastels and depicts the indigenous people of Ecuador. Marcello states: "The eyes are the window of the soul; and if you look at them slowly, they can transport you to the Andes, to the heights where the condor lives."

Peter Wordelman

Balia di Sehú

Aruba

Etty Toppenberg
arr. Rufo Odor

Allegretto $\text{♩} = 100$

S
A
T
B

Ban ba - lie, _____ ban zo - je _____ foi ma-in - ta trem -

Ban ba - lie, _____ ban zo - je _____ foi ma-in - ta trem -

Ban ba - lie, _____ ban zo - je _____ foi ma-in - ta trem -

Ban ba - lie, _____ ban zo - je _____ foi trem -

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A la Primera Estrofa
A la Segunda Estrofa

Primera Estrofa

pan te seis or di man - jan. Ta seis or di ma - in - ta

pan te seis or di man - jan. Ta seis or di ma - in - ta

pan te seis or di man - jan. Ta seis or di ma - in - ta

pan te man - jan. La ma - in - ta

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y m'a lan - ta trem - pan, ma pre - pa-ra mi mu - chi - la y m'a fa - ha mi

y m'a lan - ta trem - pan, ma pre - pa-ra mi mu - chi - la y m'a fa - ha mi

y m'a lan - ta trem - pan, ma pre - pa-ra mi mu - chi - la y m'a fa - ha mi

y trem - pan, cu mi mu - chi - la y mi

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lom - ba. Nos t'ei ba - lia se - hú, nos t'ei zo - ja se - hú, mi shon,
 lom - ba. Nos t'ei ba - lia se - hú, nos t'ei zo - ja se - hú, mi shon,
 lom - ba. Nos t'ei ba - lia se - hú, nos t'ei zo - ja se - hú, mi shon,
 lom - ba. Nos se - hú, mi shon - nan nos se - hú, mi shon,

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D.C. Segunda Estrofa

ri - ba rit - m'i tam - bú. Ma to - pa cu Pe - ru - chi y m'a to - pa mi
 ri - ba rit - m'i tam - bú. Ma to - pa cu Pe - ru - chi y m'a to - pa mi
 ri - ba rit - m'i tam - bú. Ma to - pa cu Pe - ru - chi y m'a to - pa mi
 di tam - bú. Shon Pe - ru - chi y mi

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swa, nan tur cu nan bo - tr'i pin chi nan tam - be ta bai se - hú.
 swa, nan tur cu nan bo - tr'i pin chi nan tam - be ta bai se - hú.
 swa, nan tur cu nan bo - tr'i pin chi nan tam - be ta bai se - hú.
 swa, nan bo - tr'i pin chi nan bai se - hú.

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Hen - de nan hu - mil - de gai - nan di ho - pi ra - sa, mi shon,

Hen - de nan hu - mil - de gai - nan di ho - pi ra - sa, mi shon,

Hen - de nan hu - mil - de gai - nan di ho - pi ra - sa, mi shon,

Hen - de hu - mil - de gai ho - pi ra - sa, mi shon,

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nan t'ei zo - ja se - hú. Ban ba - lie, ban zo - je

nan t'ei zo - ja se - hú. Ban ba - lie, ban zo - je

nan t'ei zo - ja se - hú. Ban ba - lie, ban zo - je

nan t'ei zo - ja se - hú. Ban ba - lie, ban zo - je

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*Para finalizar repetir ad lib.**Fin*

foi ma - in - ta trem - pan te seis or di man - jan.

foi ma - in - ta trem - pan te seis or di man - jan.

foi ma - in - ta trem - pan te seis or di man - jan.

foi trem - pan te man - jan.